

# Corps

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another senior male cadet who requested anonymity. He will be called Tom.

"We were in the dark," Tom said. "We heard everything — like the Corps is going to be disbanded. This guy beat up this girl at Parsons Mounted Cavalry and that's it. It's all over."

With the confusion and lack of information, cadets said the rumors of disbanding the Corps were unavoidable and predominant on the Quadrangle. "There was a rumor mill all over the place," another fifth-year senior who completed four years in the

Corps and requested anonymity said. He will be called Gary. "Everybody was saying, 'This needs to quit. If anyone screws up now, we're history.'"

Adin Pfeuffer, public affairs officer for the Corps, said cadet leaders were well-informed, but cadets at the bottom of the chain of command were not.

"When you get down to freshmen and sophomores, a lot of times they don't know what's going on in the big picture of the Corps anyway," Pfeuffer said. "That's just the structure of the Corps. It's hard to get every piece of information (to them)."

Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, Corps commandant, said the appropriate leaders of the Corps were adequately informed, and

that many aspects could not be discussed with every cadet because they were not public information.

"Last year was very misunderstood," he said. "We had two or three cases where we had real sexual harassment — where you ostracize someone. Physical kinds of things. After those couple of incidents, I don't think you could find many problems in terms of sexual harassment."

Maj. Rebecca Ray, executive assistant to the commandant, was added to the commandant's staff in October 1991. One of her first priorities was assessing the morale and progress of female cadets.

"I really didn't have many complaints (about harassment),"

Ray said. "Mostly, the women were angry at the ones who were making the fuss: 'Why don't people leave us alone?' I think they felt that more harm was done in some cases by making an issue of it."

Despite the controversy, Pfeuffer said he had faith that the Corps would remain intact, but he believed the presence of the fact-finding panel contributed to the rumors.

"It (the panel) was like a big mystique," he said. "What exactly is going to happen? I never felt like the Corps was going to be disbanded, but I knew there would be some changes."

Some cadets said the length of the panel's investigation was also part of the problem.

They compared the seven-month investigation to a recent hearing that involved an A&M fraternity accused of racism. Cadets pointed out that the accused fraternity received a verdict and sanctions within a week.

Gary said the fact-finding panel may have done more harm than good with the 'outdated information.'

"(The investigation) dragged on so long that people (cadets) became apathetic," Gary said. "By the time (the report) came out, it was ancient history. It needed to come out so people would have it fresh on their mind — this is what happened, and this is what we're doing."

But Dr. Kenneth Dirks, co-chair of the panel, said the seven months were necessary for a complete overview and gave the Corps time to make positive changes. The panel did release a preliminary report November 17, 1991 that stated there were harassment problems within the Corps.

"I think we lost a lot more negative publicity than we might have had in the intervening time," Dirks said. "It was necessary for the Corps to have an opportunity to examine itself and see what measures they needed to take care of their problem."

Darling said the fact-finding panel was helpful as he pursued new policies to avoid harassment.

"It (the panel) fulfilled a useful purpose. They did come up with helpful recommendations — not that I agreed with everything," he said.

The fact-finding panel reported that women were ostracized, abused verbally and physically, denied respect and excluded from certain groups.

The panel also found that male cadets followed discriminatory attitudes. Sexual harassment was not handled confidentially and some cadets expressed a "blame the victim" attitude.

Even now, there is disagreement on how far harassment extended in the Corps.

Some cadets believe the controversy resulted from the actions of "a few bad apples," and they are

angry that the Corps' reputation suffered because of that.

"It was kind of tough because I was taking the heat for something I did not take part in," he said. "I don't want to see this reputation that I care so much about go down in flames."

Gary said harassment was a new thing in the Corps. "The problem (harassment) has been there for a long time," he said. "It wasn't really surprising to me."

Gary said when the investigation first brought up in the fall, it was embarrassing for most cadets and they took the accusations seriously and tried to keep a "profile" to make certain there was nothing wrong.

"We're trying to represent a better image," Gary said. "The majority wasn't out to get the women. If we did it, we did it was joking around."

"I won't say it (harassment) happened daily because it didn't," he said. "It's like on this campus. It's there, but not open. They (cadets) didn't want to do something that weren't thinking about."

The fact-finding panel concluded that a majority of cadets did not participate in harassment. However, the panel did find that sexual harassment was "recently, widely practiced" in the Corps, and there were "pervasive enough" to be a major concern.

Again, not all cadets agreed with that assessment.

"I really don't agree with the panel's findings," Pfeuffer said. "Harassment is not throughout the Corps. There's going to be your small incidents, and that's common in every organization."

Dirks said the fact that organizations are having problems with harassment doesn't lessen the significance of harassment in the Corps.

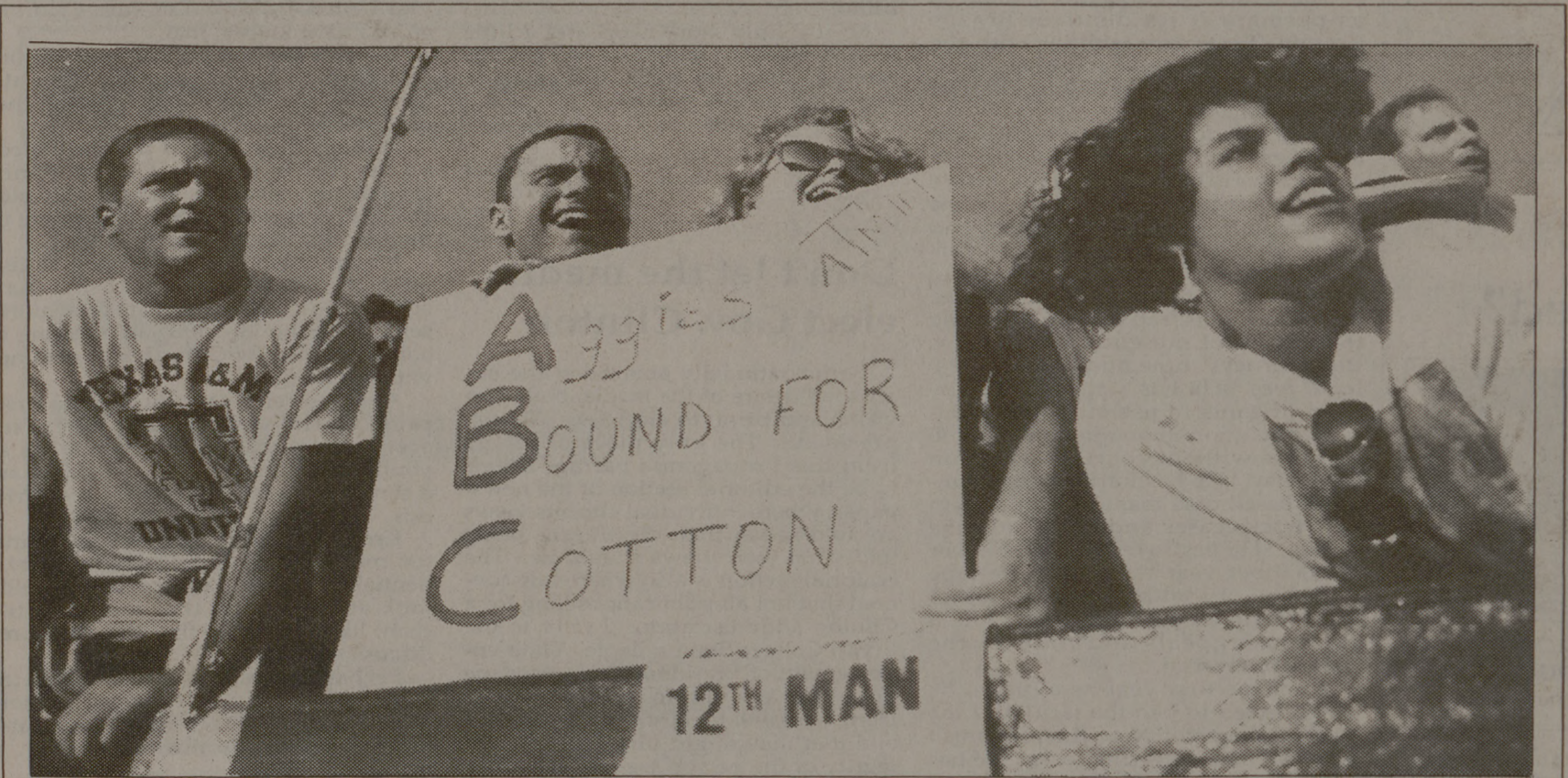
"The fact that somebody has the same problem I do is no great comfort," Dirks said. "If I have a problem, I need to deal with it. I feel the same about our Corps of Cadets anything else."

"But it's changing," Gary said. "They're changing attitudes, just procedures."

Even though the panel's investigation shed a negative light on the Corps, Mobley said, it is the Corps change for the better.

"In some ways it is unfair that the Corps was tainted," Mobley said. "It's unfair the University was tainted by some. On the other hand, it's progress. Sometimes it takes a pretty dramatic situation for a dramatic change to occur."

Tuesday: Part II - Continuing Times in the Corps



From left to right, John Talley, Federico Lagrange, Heather Young and Kristy Davis support the Aggies at the Baylor game Saturday.

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# Dillard's

## Facts

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and five juniors were subjected to disciplinary hearings. Some were exonerated, others were given verbal or written reprimands.

• January 27, 1992 - Darling announced several initiatives for the Corps:

• Punitive actions against cadets proved guilty of harassment during the fall semester.

• Restructuring of the Parsons Mounted Cavalry unit.

• Addition of a Female Force officer, Maj. Rebecca Ray, to the Corps commandant's staff.

• Placing of ROTC staff members in dormitory areas.

• Improving communication to emphasize Corps and university policies.

• Revising training and orientation programs addressing positive leadership, management skills and non-discrimination.

• April 30, 1992 - Fact-finding panel released final report. Major findings were:

• Sexual harassment was prevalent within the Corps.

• Many women in the Corps had experienced verbal and physical abuse, lack of respect, exclusion from groups, and ostracism.

• Male freshmen cadets expressed attitudes of upperclassmen.

• Reports of sexual harassment had not been treated confidentially.

• A "blame the victim" attitude led to a denial of incidents.

• April 30, 1992 - Mobley's plan - as developed by Maj. Gen. Darling, is based on the fact-finding committee. Action plan:

• Cadets are required to sign a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment. Cadets have been signing the policy since February '92.

• Increased staff supervision around the quadrangle.

• Emphasized recruitment of women and minorities into the Corps.

• Established leadership training programs with curriculum addresses values, ethics and man relations.

• Establishment of a ROTC advisory council which will report directly to Mobley's office.

• Established an 8-to-12 person Commandant's Advisory Council to consult with the commandant.

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